

VP\PASSIVE VOICE\ Further Notes:

- ❖ It is used when the subject is unknown or is not required to be mentioned. In informal spoken English, 'somebody'; 'someone'; 'something'; sometimes 'we'; 'you' are mostly used in active voice form of sentence when the subject is unknown.
- ❖ It is mostly preferred in formal academic writing. 'It' is used when the subject is a word like 'Somebody, everybody' and the object is a that clause :

He is **implementing a new experiment** now →

A new experiment is being implemented now. (more formal)

Somebody **believes** that the experience will fail →

It is believed that the experience will fail. (formal)

- ❖ Also, it is preferred to put the subject at the end when it is long:

Don's decision to give up his job and move to Sydney surprised me →

I was surprised by Don's decision to give up his job and move to Sydney

- ❖ **Some further notes:**

- 1- Verbs (such as: award, hand, lend, offer, send, throw, tell, ask, read, teach) followed by two Objects have two different forms of passive:

I **gave Sally a letter** → A letter was given to Sally,

→ Sally was given a letter

- 2- If the structure of the sentence is not true, then there is no passive:

☒ He explained **me** the problem (no passive)

✓ He explained the problem to me → The problem was explained to me

Other verbs that are followed by one object only are such as: announce, demonstrate, describe, introduce, mention, propose, report, suggest)

- 3- (S+V+O+Co) has only the following form of passive:

you make **her** their representative → She is made their representative

Other verbs are such as: appoint, declare, elect, nominate, vote, name, call, title)

- 4- V+O+V(bare infinitive):

He has helped **her go** forward → She has been helped **to go** forward.

Other verbs are such as: make, feel, hear, observe, see, let)

- 5- Phrasal or multiple word verbs (like: look for, carry out, disapprove of, hold over, talk down, ... etc.) can have a passive form:

She **looks after** her child → Her child **is looked after** by her.

Note: - Some phrasal verbs can have no passive form when having certain meanings, as in: (**brush up on**=revise, **cast back**=try to remember, **come up again**=encounter, **get down**=write, **take after**=resemble, **call up**=telephone, **call back**=telephone, **let in**=allow rain in, **put out**+ a hand/arm/foot/tongue)

- 6- S+ V+ O+ to+ V:

Mr. Price learned Peter to write well → Peter was learned to write well

But sometimes, there are more than one option:

We expect **the government to propose changes to the taxation system:**

→ Changes to the taxation system are expected to be proposed. Or:

→ The government is expected to propose changes to the taxation system.

Other verbs are such as: advise, allow, ask, believe, consider, expect, feel, instruct, mean, order, require, tell, understand.

7- S+ V+ to+ V+ O:

Supermarket started to sell fresh pasta only in the 1990→

Fresh pasta started to be sold only in the 1990.

Others verbs are such as: appear, begin, come, continue, seem, tend, agree, aim, arrange, attempt, hope, refuse, want.

8- V+O+-ing: They saw the monkey climbing→ the monkey was seen climbing

Other verbs are such as: bring, catch, hear, find, keep, notice, observe, send, show.

9- Some verbs do not allow the passive form, such as: contain, lack, befell, eludes, afford, have, cost, part.

10- Also, the structures: S+V+C (or Adv.), S+V+ reflexive pronoun (myself, herself..) cannot be changed into passive voice form of structure.

He saw himself. (no passive),

I am a student (no passive),

I play well (no passive),

It costs three dinars (no passive)